

business community in closing the skills gap and helping individuals enter a rewarding career. The National Apprenticeship Act of 2021, in addition to Congresswoman Slotkin's (D-MI-8) amendment, addresses many of the challenges that manufacturers have long experienced in the Registered Apprenticeship system by streamlining the registration and approval process and providing a more direct means of support for the companies and education partners that wish to create or expand Registered Apprenticeship programs.

The National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 improves an established model of training and work-based learning that can help to close the skills gap that manufacturers face. We appreciate the bi-partisan agreement that has been reached on this bill and we support its passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN LEE,
Executive Director.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, this amendment undermines the core premises behind the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021, which would create 1 million more registered apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, and youth apprenticeship opportunities over the next 5 years.

Registered apprenticeships represent a proven earn-and-learn program. Ninety-four percent of those who complete their apprenticeships are employed upon completion, and they have an average starting salary of \$70,000.

This substitute amendment is nothing less than an attack on the successful registered apprenticeship system. It makes deep cuts to funding in H.R. 447, which will result in sparse growth in new registered apprenticeships, while diverting scarce funds to untested and unproven programs run by third parties.

Instead, it gives the Secretary of Labor and State apprenticeship agencies open-ended authority to waive the quality and accountability standards in this act. Authorizing funding for a program without guardrails is not an approach Congress should be taking when working with the executive branch of either party.

Allow me to address the specifics of the substitute amendment.

First, it allows the Secretary of Labor to divert funds for unproven and untested programs, like the Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs, or IRAPs, created under the Trump administration. Unlike registered apprenticeships, there has been no evaluation of unregistered programs like IRAPs—none. When DOL proposed the creation of IRAPs, it received over 300,000 comments in opposition.

Congress should not be opening the spigots of taxpayer money for programs that lack broad public support, especially when there is no evidence that programs that do not meet registered apprenticeship standards are effective at all. This is an irresponsible use of taxpayer money.

Democrats are, in fact, leading on innovation. For example, an amendment offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS), which was in-

cluded in the en bloc amendments, allows the Secretary of Labor to fund innovation in apprenticeships by allowing demonstration projects in non-traditional sectors, subject to the recommendation of the National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships appointed by the Secretary. These projects could even help with the COVID-19 response.

Second, the substitute amendment slashes funding for apprenticeship grants from \$3.5 billion to \$1.1 billion over the next 5 years. It cuts State apprenticeship formula grants from \$475 million to \$385 million over 5 years. States have asked us for funding certainty so they can scale up their apprenticeship efforts and have been documented to be an engine of success for the growth of apprenticeships.

This cut is a 77 percent reduction in total funding, resulting in only 219,000 new apprenticeship opportunities. This is an easy choice: 219,000 apprenticeship opportunities versus nearly 1 million apprenticeship opportunities that the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 provides.

We all agree that apprenticeships are a pathway to the middle class, so why would we want to eliminate the rungs of opportunity for hundreds of thousands of apprentices?

Third, this amendment eliminates the interagency agreement with the Department of Education to create stronger alignment between the education system and the national apprenticeship system. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle often talk about wanting to create pathways for students to pursue alternatives to a 4-year degree, but this amendment eliminates provisions of the National Apprenticeship Act that do that in a way that is sought by our institutions of higher education.

As I mentioned earlier, our community colleges strongly support the act as it is. Some say we are creating a one-size-fits-all approach with this bill, but that isn't true either. We include new apprenticeship models, such as competency-based and hybrid options, and expand youth apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships, something employers have consistently requested.

This amendment is a step in the wrong direction. At a time when at least 7 million people have permanently lost their jobs due to the mishandling of the pandemic, and when the economy is facing a deep recession, the underlying bill is focused on getting people back to work with the best skills possible.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the amendment offered by Representative STEFANIK, a distinguished member of the Education and Labor Committee.

Modernizing the apprenticeship system in this country is more important now than ever, as millions are in need of reskilling.

This amendment would drastically improve the Registered Apprenticeship Program while also permitting DOL to pursue models of work-based learning outside the registered system, such as Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs.

The exclusion of this amendment would stop this innovative progress and scrap the 131 IRAPs that have already been recognized, the vast majority of which are for nursing credentials.

Unlike the Democrats' narrow-minded bill, Representative STEFANIK's amendment recognizes the needs of students, workers, and job creators.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense alternative.

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York has 15 seconds remaining.

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this amendment.

This is about getting millions of Americans back to work. This amendment supports small businesses. This amendment supports pre-apprenticeship programs. And most importantly, this amendment supports innovation.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 85, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK).

The question is on the amendment.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appear to have it.

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 447 is postponed.

□ 1145

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF S. CON. RES. 5, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Mr. MORELLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 117-5) on the resolution (H. Res. 101) providing for the adoption of the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 5) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government

for fiscal year 2021 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2022 through 2030, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF S. CON. RES. 5, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 101 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 101

Resolved, That Senate Concurrent Resolution 5 is hereby adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), my colleague from the Committee on Rules, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 101, providing for adoption of S. Con. Res. 5, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2021 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2022 through 2030.

Madam Speaker, I am, once again, on the floor today to urge my colleagues to adopt the rule and to support passage of this budget resolution.

Across our Nation, Americans are facing a dire crisis. Many have lost loved ones. Even more have lost livelihoods. Small businesses are shuttering their doors, hospitals are being pushed to their limits, and students are falling behind.

In the past year alone, Congress has taken steps to respond to the needs of struggling Americans, but I know that each and every one of my colleagues can agree that we have a long road yet to travel.

Passing this budget resolution is a necessary step to fast-track essential COVID relief, the American Rescue Plan.

I know the gentleman from Texas and many of his colleagues on the

other side of the aisle have aired complaints about the process begun earlier this week. If these were normal times and if we were dealing with more mundane issues, I would share their concerns. I am a strong believer in bipartisanship, in compromise, and in regular order in the House and Senate. But these are certainly not normal times, and we are not dealing with mundane issues. We face the greatest crisis in our lifetime. Americans are counting on us, relying on us, and we have a moral imperative to save lives and families from destitution.

As of yesterday afternoon, 454,272 Americans have died from this tragic disease, a disease which has ripped a hole in millions of hearts that can never be repaired.

The victims of this disease have left spouses, children, grandchildren, parents, friends, neighbors, and people who needed them, who relied on them, and who loved them. Nothing we can do now will fix that. But we face the prospect of losing thousands more, and we can and must fix that.

This isn't just appropriate, this isn't just wise; this is a moral imperative.

Even families who have not lost a loved one have faced the disastrous consequences of the pandemic. Nearly 11 million Americans are unemployed, more than double the number before the spread of COVID-19. As a result, one in three American families have faced difficulty covering their regular household expenses, an estimated one in five adults are behind on rent, and 10.3 million homeowners are behind on their mortgages.

This isn't just desirable, this isn't just sensible; this is a moral imperative.

Parents in my district and in so many communities are struggling to put food on the table for their family. Nearly 24 million people, or nearly 11 percent of all adults in this country, have reported that their households sometimes, or often, didn't have enough to eat in the past 7 days. Before the pandemic, the Department of Agriculture found that number was fewer than 3.5 percent over the full 12 months of 2019.

This isn't just advisable, this isn't just constructive; this is a moral imperative.

So let's talk about what we are going to do to rise to this challenge. We are moving forward with the budget reconciliation process to ensure that Congress can pass meaningful coronavirus relief without delay or partisan gridlock. The budget resolution before us provides a framework for reconciliation with a target of up to \$1.9 trillion. It is designed solely to respond to the ongoing crisis and to deliver critical relief as quickly as possible.

This will enable us to finally beat this virus and continue on the path of a national economic recovery. We will mount a national vaccination program, setting up vaccination sites in communities across the country. We will in-

vest in reopening schools and provide direct housing and nutrition assistance to families in need.

The American Rescue Plan will also provide direct assistance to Americans, stimulus payments, including assistance for dependents. We will also provide crucial support for the hardest hit small businesses, as well as first responders and frontline workers, who have done so much to turn back the tide of this virus.

But without the reconciliation directives in this resolution, any bold action could languish indefinitely in the Senate, putting the health and well-being of millions of American families at risk.

For those concerned about the national debt or possibility of future inflation, I urge them to heed the advice from Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, a Republican appointed by President Trump to the Federal Reserve chairmanship, when he warned us to be more worried about falling short of a complete recovery and losing people's careers and lives and the damage that will do to our economic future.

Moving forward with budget reconciliation does not preclude a strong bipartisan agreement on a relief package that can gain wide support in both the House and the Senate. In fact, there is no need for partisanship on this issue.

While it seems we may be divided today in this Chamber, the American people clearly are not. The overwhelming majority, including a majority of Republicans across this country, support passage of emergency legislation, including stimulus payments, vaccine funding, and other pandemic responses in this plan.

This is not a partisan issue because it is not only red or blue families, but families of all political persuasions that are struggling, and I am certain my colleagues in the minority know that all too well.

I urge Members of this House to support this budget resolution so we can immediately get to work on this desperately needed American Rescue Plan. It is our moral imperative.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today's rule deems the Senate version of the budget resolution, S. Con. Res. 5, as passed. Last night, the Senate considered this measure, along with hundreds of amendments. The House passed its version, H. Con. Res. 11, on Wednesday. The two measures are largely the same, but because the Senate version has minor changes, we find ourselves once again considering a measure that the House has already passed.

Even though we are once again considering a rule for the budget resolution, we will not actually debate and pass because this rule deems the resolution as passed. I think it is important for Members to recognize: This is